

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/775,003

Examiner

Naresh Vig

Applicant(s)

MCINTYRE ET AL.

Art Unit

3629

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to response received 22 January 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some\*   c) ☐ None   of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Drawings***

The drawings have been approved by the examiner.

### ***REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's invention is directed to method for providing a plurality of digital cameras and storing digital images captured by the plurality of digital cameras on behalf of plurality of users, wherein each user selects a particular digital camera from a plurality of differently configured digital cameras, and, also selects a service plan associated with the digital camera selected by the user. Information identifying each of the plurality of digital cameras and its associated service plan is stored in a computer database. Digital images captured by the user selected camera is stored in accordance with the associated service plan wherein the digital images are stored on the same image storage system remote from each of the digital cameras; and, billing each of the plurality of users on a periodic basis in accordance with the designated periodic fee for their selected service plan.

**Regarding Independent Claim 1**

**Prior art Stringer teaches:**

Users using their digital cameras for capturing images.

Storing of digital images captured by plurality of digital cameras associated with a user on a storage system remote from the digital camera.

**Prior art Stringer does not teach:**

Service provide providing digital cameras to the users.

Service plan associated with the digital camera.

Periodically billing users in accordance with the designated periodic fee for their selected service plan.

**Prior art Tomkins teaches:**

Users have plurality of selections available to select a particular digital camera from a plurality of differently configured digital cameras.

**Prior art Tomkins does not teach:**

Service provider providing digital camera to users.

Service plan associated with the digital camera.

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Periodically billing users in accordance with the designated periodic fee for their selected service plan.

**Prior art Cox teaches:**

Service plan selected by user.

Service providers periodically billing users in accordance to plans selected by the users.

**Prior art Cox does not teach:**

Service provider providing digital camera to users.

Service plan associated with the digital camera.

**Prior art Watanabe teaches:**

Users using their digital cameras for capturing images.

Storing of digital images captured by plurality of digital cameras associated with a user on a storage system remote from the digital camera.

**Prior art Watanabe does not teach:**

Service provider providing digital camera to users.

Service plan associated with the digital camera.

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**Prior art Honda teaches:**

Users using remote servers for services related to voice message (remotely storing digital information).

Storing of voice message at a server remote from the user.

**Prior art Watanabe does not teach:**

Service provider providing digital camera to users.

Service plan associated with the digital camera.

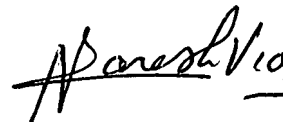
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Naresh Vig whose telephone number is (571) 272-6810. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 7:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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